

New facility replaces armory built in 1940

On page 2: Global Patriot exercise

Winchester infantry battalion shows off new armory

The Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team held an open house July 11 to show Soldiers, their families and community their new state-of-the-art armory.

“Our intent on holding this open house is to provide our Soldiers, families and the community the opportunity to spend some time together, to see and tour our new facility, to meet one another, and see some of our equipment up close,” said Capt. Ed McMichael, commander of 3rd Battalion’s Headquarters Company.

The unit had tours of the armory and the equipment, both old and new, for the public and dignitaries. The National Guard car, a rock band video game, and various vendors and unit supporters were also on hand for the Soldiers and the public.

The almost 52,000 square-foot armory cost about \$10 million to build and it dwarfs the old armory that opened in 1940 that measured a little over 15, 500 square feet.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/3-116thopenhouse.html>



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

29th Army Band wraps up summer concert series

While many Virginia Guard units are running around the woods and focusing on warrior-centric training for their two-week annual training, one unit was busy travelling around the commonwealth spreading joy the best way it knows how-through the gift of music.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/29thBand.html>

Equal Opportunity Advisors enthusiastic to begin their new assignment

Four Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers graduated the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute June 24 at Florida’s Patrick Air Force Base to become Virginia’s newest Equal Opportunity Advisors.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/deomi.html>

General Assembly Resolution presented to Gate City unit

The Virginia National Guard’s 1032nd Transportation Company received a Virginia General Assembly Joint Resolution sponsored by Delegate Terry Kilgore in a special ceremony to recognize the unit’s first place finish in the Army’s Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service July 11.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/1032ndresolution.html>

Virginia Defense Force now 1,000 strong

The Virginia Defense Force has met their 2009 recruiting goal and now has more then 1,000 members ready to respond to assist their fellow Virginians in all facets of disaster response.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/vdf1000.html>

Mark Your Calendars!

July 24 & 25: National Guard-sponsored Drag Race

The National Guard American Drag Racing League will host a two-day event at the Virginia Motorsports Park in Dinwiddie, Va. The event is one of 10 national events scheduled to run throughout the unit states. For more information, visit <http://www.adrl.us/index.php/main/event/> or call 804-862-3174.

Aug. 3: Departure Ceremony

A departure ceremony for the Virginia Beach-based 229th Military Police Company will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Beach armory. The unit will have the mission of training Iraqi police forces and will report to Fort Dix, N.J. to conduct mobilization training in August and September. The unit is expected to arrive in Iraq in late September or early October.

Virginia aviators begin joint exercise in Wisconsin

Virginia and Maryland Soldiers and Airmen arrived at Fort McCoy to begin exercise Global Patriot during their two-week annual training period.

The National Guard Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment with Soldiers from Virginia and Maryland, and Airmen of the 200th Weather Flight, assigned to the historic 29th Infantry Division, began arriving in Wisconsin as early as July 9 to begin preparation for the exercise.

"We are here to support an exercise called Global Patriot," said Capt. David Aaron Loy, assistant operations officer for the battalion. "This is a joint, international exercise. It is a very large exercise that encompasses Fort McCoy, Volk Airfield and also some components down in Louisiana."

According to Loy, the exercise is an Air Force-generated mission focusing a lot of attention on homeland defense training. While the battalion is here at Fort McCoy, it will also be focusing its attention towards wartime mission-based training with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade during their involvement in the exercise.

"The brigade is our higher headquarters," said Loy. "Within the brigade, they have two Apache units, us as the Blackhawks, they've got a MEDEVAC unit, they've got some Chinooks, and they've got an infantry component and a brigade support battalion, so it's a very large body with a lot of moving parts."

Loy explained how important the exercise is to the relationship between the battalion and the brigade by saying, "The reason we are training here with them is because they are who we are scheduled to go with on our next deployment."

"This is the first time we have really worked in detail with them," said Loy. "This is their first time working with us and our first time working with them."

In addition to the units within the brigade and the 200th Weather Flight, the Soldiers of the battalion will be working with components of the active-duty Army, Air Force, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Canada, according to Loy. "This is a huge exercise with a lot of moving pieces and parts. It's a major exercise."

During the exercise, the Soldiers and Airmen will be focusing on their individual tasks, honing, and building on their specialized skills to complete the mission successfully.

"What we're going to be focusing on during our time here is individual MOSQ (military occupational specialty qualification) training. We're going to be conducting individual weapons qualification and crew-served qualification," said Loy. "We're going to be doing aviation training, door gunnery, flight training, driver training and Humvee roll-over training."

"We've got a lot packed into our week and a half here on the ground," he said.

"This is a great opportunity for us to begin working with them again," said Lt. Col Jim Ring, battalion commander, during a welcome briefing to the Soldiers. "The things we're doing this AT are very similar to what you're going to do on your next



Soldiers and Airmen unload three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from a C-5 at Volk Airfield in Wisconsin before unfolding and flying the rest of the way to Fort McCoy.

deployment."

In 2009, Patriot will again go the extra mile to maximize training for all participants, incorporating combat ops and homeland defense scenarios. To begin Patriot, two CBRNE Emergency Response Forces will conduct a Homeland Defense scenario involving a radiological event within the U.S.

The first week of the exercise will focus on unit and individual training events. The second week includes a multi-day combat scenario exercise that includes medical evaluations, combat convoy training, close air support, and time sensitive targeting. The scenario will also help the units work on tactical airlift/airdrops, joint combat search and rescue missions, helicopter air assaults, dissimilar air combat, airborne surveillance, and tactical communications integration.

[Link: 0http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/GlobalPatriot.html](http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/july2009/GlobalPatriot.html)

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Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute

<http://www.deomi.org/>

Army Summer Safety Program

<https://safety.army.mil/portals/multimedia/CAMPAIGN/INITIATIVES/SummerSafety2009/tabid/977/Default.aspx>

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